

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001564

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ECA/PE/C/CU, NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: Proposal for Cultureconnect Envoy Muslim American Calligrapher Program in Bahrain

1. (U) This cable contains a proposal for a Cultureconnect Envoy Visual Arts Program entitled "Muslim American Calligrapher in Bahrain."

2. (U) Begin proposal text.

CULTURECONNECT ENVOY REQUEST

Project Type: Visual Arts

"This project meets the ACULSPEC Request Criteria"

CONTACTS FOR THIS REQUEST

Main Contact

First+Last Name: Mario Crifo

Title: Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Country: BAHRAIN

Post: MANAMA

Telephone: +973-3941-9883

Fax: +973-1727-0547

E-mail Address: crifomn@state.gov

Other Contacts:

Janan Shaikh Abdulla, Cultural Affairs Assistant

ShAbdullaJ@state.gov

+973-1724-2712

Wyn Hornbuckle, Public Affairs Officer

hornbuckpw@state.gov

+973-1724-2717

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Project Name: Muslim-American Calligrapher in Bahrain

Project Description: Muslim-American Calligrapher visits Bahrain to display calligraphic artwork at local arts and religious institutions, conduct workshops with local calligraphers, and speak on the topic of Islamic culture in America.

MPP Goals: Combating Terrorism, Democracy, Mutual Understanding, Information Resources

Project Objectives and Relationships to MPP Goals above:

This project will bring the artwork and perspective of an accomplished Muslim-American calligrapher to broad audiences among Bahraini artists, museum professionals, academics, students and youth. Our specific goals are:

1. Increase mutual understanding by educating target communities about Islam and Muslims in America, and by illustrating the prevalence of and respect for Muslims and Islamic art in America.

2. Engage academics in dialogue about the role of religious freedom and tolerance in American society. (Comment: This is especially important given Bahrain's sectarian challenge of harmonizing divisions between Sunni and Shia sects.)

3. Educate Bahraini artists and curators about cutting edge techniques in calligraphy that are practiced by accomplished American artists.

HOST INSTITUTIONS / SUBJECTS & METHODS OF DELIVERY / AUDIENCES

#1 A. Beit Al Quran

1B. A joint project of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, the Beit Al Quran is a museum and cultural center devoted to the curation and display of Quranic texts in various calligraphic forms. / A. We would like Mr. Zakariya to present and discuss his work, the selection of manuscripts, and the calligraphic techniques used. We would like him to hold a master class on calligraphy techniques with calligraphy students and artists who have a basic level of pre-professional proficiency.

1B. lecture-demonstration and master class / 1. museum curators and patrons

2. pre-professional calligraphers and calligraphy students

3. Bahraini public

#2 A. University of Bahrain Department of Islamic Studies

1B. The U of B is the premier public institution of higher education in Bahrain. The Department of Islamic Studies has close ties to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. / A. We would like Mr. Zakariya to display his work and discuss text selection and historical significance, as well as the

prevalence of Muslims and Islamic artwork in America.

1B. lecture-demonstration / 1. Department of Islamic Affairs  
students and faculty

2. broader University of Bahrain community

#3 A. Al Eskafi Arts Society

1B. With a membership of 300, Al Eskafi is the largest  
collection of artists in Bahrain and is also the most grass-  
roots in orientation. Their artwork dons city buildings and  
highway partitions. / A. We would like Mr. Zakariya to  
present a workshop with selected young untrained artists  
from Al Eskafi Arts Society on basic techniques in Islamic  
calligraphy.

1B. workshop / 1. members of Al Eskafi Arts Society

2. students from Bahrain public schools

Equipment & Materials: Prints or posters of the artist's  
work, slides, supplies for master classes and workshops  
ACULSPEC Expertise: Professional Islamic Calligrapher  
Foreign Languages Required: English. Arabic not required.

#### PREFERRED PROJECT DATES

First Choice: January 23-28, 2006

Second Choice: February 27-March 4, 2006

Blackout Dates: Fridays, January 31-February 23

#### PER-DIEM RATES:

Lodging Rate: US\$175 per day

M&IE Rate: US\$96 per day

#### MONETARY AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Post Contribution: Money: US\$1355 / In-Kind: (None)

Host Contribution: Money: US\$(None) / In-Kind: meeting  
facility, in country transportation, some meals, art  
supplies

#### REQUESTED ACULSPEC (OPTIONAL)

Citizenship: U.S.

First+Last Name: Mohamed Zakariya

Title:

Institution: Zakariya Calligraphy

Street Address: 536 North Littleton Street

City+State+Zip: Arlington, VA 22203

E-mail:

Phone: 703-243-9210

#### COMMENT

Post Manama welcomes working with neighboring posts to  
develop a multicountry program with regional impact.

13. (U) End proposal text.

MONROE